

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS AND LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A device for fastening a distribution component on a vessel neck, said fastening device comprising:

a retainer ring comprising a skirt defining an internal wall and an external wall, with the internal wall to contact the external wall of the neck; and

a lining collar surrounding the skirt of the retainer ring, the lining collar defining an internal wall and a visible external wall, the ring and the collar extending about an axially vertical axis.

characterized in that the external wall of the skirt is formed with longitudinal external ribs extending axially vertically over the height [at the top] of the skirt, said external ribs coming in fitting contact against the internal wall of the collar.

2. (Original) The fastening device according to claim 1, wherein the internal wall of the skirt is radially distorted inwards at the external ribs.

3. (Original) The fastening device according to claim 2, wherein, before the retainer ring is fitted into the lining collar, the internal wall of the skirt is cylindrical and the ribs together define a maximum diameter greater than the inside diameter of the lining collar.

4. (Currently Amended) The fastening device according to claim 1, wherein the internal wall of the skirt is formed with longitudinal internal ribs extending axially vertically over the height ~~at the top~~ of the skirt.

5. (Original) The fastening device according to claim 4, wherein the internal ribs are angularly offset from the external ribs so that one internal rib is located between two external ribs and vice versa.

6. (Original) The fastening device according to claim 5, wherein the external wall of the skirt, between the external ribs, is at a distance from the internal wall of the lining collar so as to create an intermediate clearance.

7. (Original) The fastening device according to claim 1, wherein the external ribs are evenly distributed around the skirt.

8. (Withdrawn) A method of assembling a device for fastening a distribution component on a vessel neck, said fastening device comprising:

a retainer ring comprising a skirt defining an internal wall and an external wall, with the internal wall to contact the neck, the external wall of the skirt being formed with longitudinal external ribs extending from the top of the skirt; and

a lining collar defining an internal wall and an external wall,
the method comprising the step of force-fitting the ring into the collar, with the external ribs coming in abutting contact against the internal wall of the collar so as to displace the ribs radially inwards and thereby distorting the internal wall of the skirt radially inwards.

9. (Withdrawn) The assembly method according to claim 8, wherein the step of force-fitting the ring into the collar is performed before the fastening device is installed on a vessel neck.

10. (New) A device for fastening a distribution component on a vessel neck, said fastening device comprising:

a retainer ring comprising a sleeve and a skirt defining an internal wall and an external wall, with the internal wall of the skirt to contact the external wall of the neck;
and

a lining collar surrounding the skirt and the sleeve of the retainer ring, the lining collar defining an internal wall and a visible external wall, the ring and the collar extending about an axial vertical axis,

characterized in that the external wall of the skirt and the sleeve is formed with longitudinal external ribs extending axially vertically over the height of the skirt and the

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87 sleeve, said external ribs coming in fitting contact against the internal wall of the collar.
